

OTS: 60-31,764

JPRS: 3908

15 September 1960

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THE FEDERAL FUND FOR SCIENTIFIC WORK

- YUGOSLAVIA -

By B. S.

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19990714 082

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Washington 25, D. C.

U. S. JOINT PUBLICATIONS RESEARCH SERVICE
205 EAST 42nd STREET, SUITE 300
NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

FOREWORD

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ATTEST: JAMES H. HENNING
Special Agent in Charge
Department of Defense

JPRS: 3908

CSO: 4293-D

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Following is a translation of an article by B. S.
in Finansijske (Finance), No 5, Belgrade, 1960, pages
256-259/

The powerful economic and social development of our country demands that in succeeding years scientific research work be strengthened to the greatest possible extent both in scientific establishments (institutes, plants, and in university institutes and laboratories) and in economic organizations. In this connection it is of special importance that measures be taken to assure the closest possible cooperation between economic organizations and scientific establishments in this field. This cooperation should contribute to the effective solution of problems in connection with assuring and accelerating economic development in harmony with the long-range social plans. All of this points to the need for and importance of the efficient and programmed use of the capacities of existing scientific research establishments.

The establishment of a basic program of scientific research work will contribute to this. The Federal Institute for Scientific Work in cooperation with the republic councils for scientific work has prepared a program.

For the implementation of this policy it is necessary to create sources of means and a system of financing.

The financing of scientific research work will be carried out with the means of economic organizations, the means in funds for scientific research which are created by scientific establishments, the federal fund for scientific work, as well as funds for scientific work which may also be established by the people's republics. Among these funds the federal fund for scientific work assumes a particularly important place. The status, means, functions, and transactions of the fund are regulated by a special law. The fund represents a permanent institution from the means of which are financed scientific research projects of a fundamental and applied character. Now, especially, the fund should provide assistance in financing scientific research tasks and operate as an incentive for economic organizations to devote special attention to and appropriate means for financing scientific research work important to the economic area and branch to which they belong. The fund therefore provides supplemental financing which operates to provide an incentive, assistance, and coordination in scientific research

work of general interest to society. To be sure, the fund can also be used to finance specific scientific research work as a whole.

The program of scientific research work which the Federal Council for Scientific Work is issuing is the basis for the activity of the fund.

By its nature, scientific research work often requires the investment of means for several years. It is therefore necessary for the effective activity of the fund that a finance program covering several years be issued for which there is a basis also in the provisions of the Law on Budgets and the Financing of Independent Institutions.

The means in the fund are formed from the means or subsidies from the Federal Budget and from other subsidies and assistance and are used on the basis of the finance plan for the individual year. This plan may also contain a reserve in order to make possible the financing of such scientific research work as is not provided for in the plan and whose financing is shown to be of essential importance.

The fund, which is a legal entity, has as an organ of administration an administrative council of specified composition. The nomination of members of the administrative council is submitted to the Federal Executive Council by the Federal Council for Scientific Work which is the social organ which exercises supervision over the work of the fund.

The administrative council with the concurrence of the Federal Council for Scientific Work issues an annual finance plan on the basis of proposals of scientific research institutions, economic and other organizations, and the needs of general interest all of which are in harmony with the goals established in the program. The superior commissions of the Federal Council for Scientific Work may also examine these proposals. Because of the importance of the plan and for the sake of guarantees for the effectiveness of its execution, the procedure for issuing the finance plan has a number of elements of a public nature. The plan is presented for the opinion of the republic councils for scientific work which acquaint the interested scientific institutions and organizations with it. The plan is accessible to such institutions and organizations, and when it is issued it is also presented to them.

The finance plan comprises all work which is to be performed during the current year, and this includes both the work which is to be completed during that year as well as the work which will continue to be financed in succeeding years. The latter work must be included in the finance program. In assuming obligations for succeeding years, the administrative council must also take into account the financing of new work during those years. The finance plan, in any case, will contain a distribution of means according to purposes, making special provision for means for investments

(for example, for equipment and the like), for financing scientific research work itself, for publications, for a reserve, and the like.

The procedure for apportioning means for specific tasks is established so as to assure the most favorable and the largest possible source and the broadest possible participation of interested parties. The delegation of a concrete task is carried out by the fund by means of an agreement whereby it determines which of the interested parties (institutions, organizations, and scientific workers) called upon or applying offers the greatest guarantees for the successful performance of the task. The fund notifies of its decision those organizations and scientific workers which did not submit requests or which did not respond to the appeal. Interested parties may file a complaint with the Federal Council for Scientific Work concerning the decision of the fund on the delegation of some task within a specified period of time after the receipt of notification.

The agreement by which a specified scientific research task is delegated should contain all of the elements of importance for determining the rights and obligations between the fund and the recipient of the task, in particular, the subject (with a description of the work), the conditions and methods of execution and financing, the period of time for its completion, the method of supervision, reports, etc.

The administrative council issues rulings which regulate the organization of the fund. The costs of administering the fund are charged to the account of the Federal Council for Scientific Work. The administration of the fund is supervised by a director who is also authorized to issue directives and is ex officio a member of the administrative council.

The administrative council of the fund is required to issue a final account for the fund at the close of the year and to do this with the concurrence of the Federal Council for Scientific Work. Since the fund also represents a party responsible for social property and means, the provision of article 42 of the Law on Social Accounting also applies to it. According to it, the service for social accounting will have to determine the correctness of the final accounts of all users of social property.

As is known, after the abolition of the federal budgetary funds at the end of 1957, provision has been made each year in the Federal Budget for considerable means for the advancement of specific economic areas. The programs for the use of these means which are approved by the Federal Executive Council, in part, also contain the assignments and topics which have the character of scientific research work. For this reason, the law authorizes the Federal Executive Council to transfer part of those means in the Federal Budget for 1960 insofar as they are earmarked for scientific work - and this can be determined from the approved programs - to the Federal Fund for Scientific Work.

Hence, the Federal Fund will exist in the Federal Council for Scientific Work. This circumstance is of particular importance in view of the need, initially, of using a considerable amount of the means in the fund for assistance in financing research tasks with the provision that the economy itself and the scientific research institutions will more and more make use of their own finance means in this work. In this way the fund will represent an important instrument for successful progress in scientific research work.

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